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CONSTRUCTION PROGRESSES ON THE ELBAUE WATER SUPPLY PROJECT, GDR

Good progress has been made on the Elbaue water supply project, which is one of the largest now under construction in Germany. A large part of the approximately 40 kilometers of pipeline between Pretzsch and Bitterfeld was laid during the past weeks. At present, most of the work is being concentrated on the supply line between Pretzsch and the elevated storage tank at Hohe Gieck in the Duebener lowlands, and on the gravity-feed pipe from this tank to the distribution point at Bitterfeld, 20 kilometers away.

The supply line between Pretzsch and Bitterfeld is to be completed by the end of 1953. The industrial city of Bitterfeld, which is threatened by water shortages during the summer, will then receive an additional 15,000 cubic meters of water per day from the Elbe glacial drainage valley.

More than 500 workers from the Pretzsch branch office of the VEB (People-Owned Enterprise) for Water Supply in the Upper Elbe area and from various people-owned construction unions have been employed on the construction sites, so that the pipeline system can be completed by the deadline. A machine capable of digging 20-30 meters per hour is being used to dig the ditch, which is 3½ meters deep.

The Pretzsch water supply plant, which is the first one to be completed in the entire project, can supply more than 20,000 cubic meters of water daily. This plant has been equipped with high-capacity pumps, pipes, and purifying installations, thus greatly surpassing the capacity of the former small plant.

Two large concrete storage tanks, with a capacity of 10,000 cubic meters each, have been constructed on the Hohe Gieck, a hill in the Duebener lowlands. These tanks will serve as reserve tanks and expansion tanks for peak load periods and are soon to be filled for the first time. A pumping station will aid in carrying the water from Pretzsch to the storage tanks.

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Only the first and smallest part of the Elbaue project will be completed when the supply line to Bitterfeld is put in operation. The entire project is to have 200-kilometer ring main system which will supply the central German industrial area. The cities of Leipzig and Halle, the Leuna Works "Walter Ulbricht," the Buna Chemical Works, and the "Otto Grotewohl" Combines in Boehlen and Espenhain will receive their water supplies from this ring main system. The central German industrial area, which is located on the rainless side of the Harz Mountains, has a low ground-water level because of extensive brown coal open-pit mining.

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